



LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. Eric Platt
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August 24, 2026

Dear Little Silver Schools Community,

I hope this letter finds you all well and that you have had a wonderful, restful summer break! As we prepare to open our doors for the 2026–2027 school year, I am filled with excitement and optimism for the incredible journey ahead.

To our new families joining the district, a very warm welcome—we are thrilled to have you as part of our Little Silver family. To our returning students and families, welcome back! Your continued partnership and support remain the cornerstone of our school community's success.

We are also excited to welcome several outstanding new staff members to our Little Silver family this year:

District Office

- **Sujata Ray** – Payroll/Benefit Administrator

Point Road School

- **Mary McIlvain** – Art Teacher
- **Diana Ehmman** - K Instructional Aide

Markham Place School

- **Jacqueline Margolin** – Special Education Teacher
- **Mary Kate Allingham** – 5th Grade Teacher
- **Vincent DiLeonardo** - Technology Support Specialist

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our newest team members as they begin their journey supporting our students and community!

As we gear up for the start of the 2026–2027 school year, our administrative team and staff have been working diligently to ensure our schools provide an engaging, safe, and balanced learning environment for all of our students.

As part of our ongoing commitment to thoughtful educational practices, I am writing to share several important updates regarding our district technology procedures and the release of our updated **2026–2027 Technology Handbook**.

In-School Device Storage & Daily Take-Home Policies

To build on the district's commitment to focused in-person learning and intentional use of devices, we have updated our device distribution model:

- **Kindergarten:** Kindergarten is no longer a 1-to-1 device environment. Students will instead share a dedicated cart of touchscreen Chromebooks split among the four Kindergarten classrooms for instructional activities.
- **Point Road School (Grades 1–3):** All Chromebooks will remain stored in classroom charging carts by default and will not go home daily.
- **Grade 4 (Opt-In System):** Grade 4 devices will also remain in school by default. Parents/guardians who prefer their 4th-grade student to bring their assigned device home daily for educational use may complete an **Opt-In Form** within the **Genesis Parent Portal**.
- **Markham Place School (Grades 5–8):** Students in Grades 5–6 will continue using their existing assigned devices. Incoming 7th-grade students will receive a new Chromebook that they will retain through the end of 8th grade.

Guardrails on Generative AI & Digital Safety

We continue to evaluate new technologies to ensure they serve as constructive research and assistive tools without disrupting learning:

- **External AI Platforms:** Major external generative AI platforms (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, Claude) remain blocked on all student devices district-wide.
- **Securly AI Chat:** Beginning after winter break for students in **Grades 3 and then at all times for Grades 4 through 8**, students will have access to **Securly AI Chat**. Any attempts to access external AI tools will safely redirect students to **Securly AI Chat**. This is a FERPA/COPPA-compliant, K–12 generative AI platform built specifically for education. Rather than simply supplying answers, Securly AI Chat utilizes Socratic guidance—asking probing questions to help students think critically and guide their own learning.

Reviewing the Technology Handbook & AUP

The updated **2026–2027 Technology Handbook** and **Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)** will be available for parent/guardian review and digital sign-off in the **Genesis Parent Portal** when it opens on **Wednesday, August 26th at 4:00 PM**. The Technology Handbook will also be posted directly to the district website for easy access. Please take time to review

these policies with your child(ren) before the start of school to ensure everyone understands device care expectations and safe usage.

As you prepare for the upcoming weeks, please keep the following important updates and dates in mind:

1. **First Day of School:** We are eager to welcome our students back to the classrooms for their first official day of school on **Tuesday, September 8th**.
2. **Back to School Nights:** Markham Place BTSN is Thursday, September 24th, and Point Road BTSN is Thursday, October 1st. Please mark your calendars.
3. **Little Silver PTO 5K:** Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 4th** for the annual Little Silver PTO 5K! This is the PTO's premier community fundraising event, directly supporting our students through school assemblies, field trips, and teacher grants. We encourage everyone to participate, volunteer, or come out to cheer on our runners. More details on registration and sponsorship opportunities are available on the [PTO's website](#).
4. **Home-School Communication:** Clear, open communication between home and school remains a top priority. Please ensure your contact information and emergency details are up to date in the Genesis Parent Portal so you do not miss any important district notifications or building updates throughout the year.

Our dedicated teachers, administrators, and support staff have been working diligently to prepare engaging, enriching learning environments for all of our students. Together, we will continue to foster a culture of academic excellence and emotional growth.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our schools. Let's make the 2026–2027 school year our best one yet!

Committed to Excellence,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Platt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Platt".

Eric Platt
Superintendent of Schools